

the 54th, was detailed to guard them and carry them up the valley to Staunton. The 6th Regiment and the other two regiments of the brigade went on in that series of movements which culminated at Gettysburg.

We crossed the Potomac near Shepherdstown and passed through Sharpsburg, where we lost so many of our regiment in September before; thence on past Hagerstown and nearly to Chambersburg. We then bore to the right or easterly across the mountains, passing Heidlersburg, Berlin and other towns, and on to York. There we stopped and rested for a few days, camping in the old fair-grounds.

Gen. Gordon, with the brigade of our division, pushed still further towards Philadelphia and burned the bridge over the Susquehanna at Columbia.

Leaving York, we soon found that we were retracing our march. On the afternoon of the 1st of July, when we, as it afterwards appeared, were within a few miles of Gettysburg, and whilst halted for a rest, although we could not hear or see any signs of battle, an order was passed along down the line to inspect the arms and examine the cartridge-boxes and see that all were well supplied with ammunition, and directing also that there should be no straggling. Moving forward we soon heard cannonading in our front, and soon thereafter we were in hearing of musketry.

The road was cleared for the artillery to come forward, and we were formed into line of battle to protect it. The battle was raging on the west and northwest of the town, and we were engaging the lines that were formed on the north of the town.

In the artillery duel that took place here, one of the guns which our regiment supported was disabled by a shot from one of the enemy's guns, which struck our gun exactly in the muzzle and split it. That might be called a centre-shot.

The enemy seemed to fight with more desperation and gallantry than we had been accustomed to in our engagements with them in Virginia.

They were upon their own soil, and it was no longer a sentiment about "*the old flag*," it was a fight for home. But our men were never more unfaltering. The long line of battle moved with great steadiness across the wide-extended fields of wheat which were just ready for the reaper. There was, on that field, another Reaper gathering in a numerous "*harvest from the fields of Time*."

As we moved forward, one by one our men were left dead or wounded on the field behind us, but still our line advanced, and although the enemy made a determined stand we could see their line thinning down. Just north of the town, and a little to the east of the depot, they held their line until our men crossed bayonets with them. Swords were used on them, and when the artillery, which they were protecting, fired its last round the stream of fire from the mouth of the gun crossed our line.

It was necessary for them to be thus desperate in holding this position, in order to protect the retreat from Seminary Ridge. Their artillery was being carried back from Seminary Ridge, through the town, to Cemetery Hill. They were in full retreat through the town.

We thought the battle of Gettysburg was over; and so it was, for when we passed to the southeast side of the town and got in sight of Cemetery Hill, we could see them placing their first gun on East Cemetery Hill, and we could see no troops out east of Cemetery Hill towards Culp's Hill. Our men were anxious to proceed and take possession of Cemetery Hill, and it was only by positive orders that a halt was made.

The line was soon reformed along a little rivulet that runs north-eastwardly from Cemetery Hill, and between the town and Culp's Hill. But we had no orders for any further advance.

As soon as it began to grow dark we could hear sounds of what might have been thousands of axes cutting down the timber on Culp's Hill. They made breastworks and lined the Cemetery Hill with artillery, and placed a battery on a small hill between Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill, and